PATENT

381-1006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BALBI ET AL.]

Serial No.:] Art Unit:

Filed: July 30, 2001] Examiner:

For: PRESSURIZED FLUID PIPE]

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 2, please add the following paragraph:

-- This invention is based on a foreign priority application, Italian Patent Application No. SV 99A 000 038, filed on December 1, 1999. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein the dimension of the thickness of the wall is much greater than the dimension of the bore diameter.

7. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein internal surface and external surface are subjected to a nitriding or carbonitriding treatment.

11. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a number of functions greater than that of merely conveying fluid.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a number of functions greater than that of merely conveying fluid.

Please add the following new claims:

23. A pipe according to claim 3, wherein the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter.

24. A pipe according to claim 2, wherein the dimension of the thickness of the wall is much greater than the dimension of the bore diameter.

25. A pipe according to claim 24, wherein the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter.

26. A method according to claim 20, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a function of a manifold element or the like.

27. A method according to claim 26, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a function of a manifold for so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines.

28. A pipe according to claim 11, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a function of a manifold element or the like.

29. A pipe according to claim 28, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a function of a manifold used in so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted for entry prior to examination on the merits of this application. Entry of these formal amendments is respectfully requested to advance prosecution of this application. No new matter has been added.

The attached page is captioned "Version with marking to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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July 30, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The following new paragraph has been added beginning at page 1, line 2:

This invention is based on a foreign priority application, Italian Patent Application No. SV 99A 000 038, filed on December 1, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A pipe according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 ~~and 2~~, wherein the dimension of the thickness of the wall is much greater than the dimension of the bore diameter~~, i.e. the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter~~.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein ~~both the surfaces, i.e.~~ internal surface and external surface~~,~~ are subjected to a nitriding or carbonitriding treatment.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A pipe according to claim 1, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a number of functions greater than that of merely conveying fluid~~, such as, for example, a manifold element or the like, in particular a manifold used in so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines~~.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a number of functions greater than that of merely conveying fluid~~, such as, for example, a manifold element or the like, in particular a manifold for so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines, is envisaged~~.

The following new claims 23-29 have been added:

23. A pipe according to claim 3, wherein the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter.

24. A pipe according to claim 2, wherein the dimension of the thickness of the wall is much greater than the dimension of the bore diameter.

25. A pipe according to claim 24, wherein the pipe has an external diameter much greater than the internal diameter.

26. A method according to claim 20, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a function of a manifold element or the like.

27. A method according to claim 26, applied to a pipe which forms a tubular element or a system part having a function of a manifold for so-called "common rail" feed systems for diesel engines.

28. A pipe according to claim 11, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a function of a manifold element or the like.

29. A pipe according to claim 28, wherein said pipe forms a tubular element or a part of a pressurised-fluid feed system having a function of a manifold used in so-called “common rail” feed systems for diesel engines.